

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as shown in the below listing of claims without prejudice or disclaimer to cancelled subject matter.

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Currently Amended) A suture strand suitable for use as a suture or ligature, comprising:
a core including a plurality of core fibers made of a first material wherein the first material is a high molecular weight, high tenacity material; and
a cover surrounding the core, the cover including a plurality of cover fibers made of a second material different than the first material, and wherein the second material is a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of PET, polyester, coated urethanes, and mixtures thereof.
2. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 1, wherein the core fibers are arranged in a twisted bundle.
3. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 1, wherein the core consists solely of core fibers of the first material.
4. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of cover fibers are arranged to form a woven annular braid.
5. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 1, wherein the cover consists solely of cover fibers of the second material.

6. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 1, wherein the first material comprises a high tensile strength material.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 1, wherein the first material is ultrahigh molecular weight long chain polyethylene.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 1, wherein the second material is substantially opaque.

11. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 1, wherein the first material is substantially transparent.

12. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 1, wherein each of the core fibers comprises a bundle of filaments of the first material.

13. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 1, wherein each of the cover fibers comprises a bundle of filaments of the second material.

14. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 1, wherein each of the core fibers is substantially circular in cross section.

15. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 1, wherein each of the core fibers is substantially wedge-shaped in cross-section.

16. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 1, wherein the core comprises:
a sub-core comprising at least one core fiber; and

an outer ring comprising a plurality of core fibers surrounding the sub-core.

17. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 16, wherein the sub-core comprises a single core fiber.

18. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 16, wherein the sub-core comprises a plurality of core fibers arranged in a twisted bundle.

19. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 16, wherein the outer ring comprises an annular woven braid of core fibers.

20. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 14, wherein:
each of the cover fibers is substantially circular in cross-section and has a first diameter;
and
each of the core fibers has a diameter greater than the first diameter.

21. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 15, wherein:
each of the cover fibers is substantially circular in cross-section and has a first diameter;
and
each of the core fibers has a length greater than the first diameter.

22. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 1, wherein:
each of the cover fibers comprises a bundle of cover filaments, each cover filament having a substantially circular cross-section and a cover filament diameter; and
each of the core fibers comprises a bundle of core filaments, each core filament having a substantially circular cross-section and a core filament diameter, wherein the core filament diameter of each of the core filaments is greater than the cover filament diameter of any of the cover filaments.

23. (Currently Amended) A suture strand suitable for use as a suture or ligature, comprising:

a core including a plurality of core fibers consisting solely of a first high strength material; and

a cover surrounding the core, the cover including a plurality of cover fibers consisting solely of a second material different than the first material and wherein said second material is a material having good knot-tying ability and wherein said first material is a material having high tenacity and a greater tensile strength than said second material.

24. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 23, wherein the first material comprises a high tensile strength material.

25. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 23, wherein the first material is a high molecular weight, high tenacity material.

26. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 23, wherein the first material is ultrahigh molecular weight long chain polyethylene.

27. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 23, wherein the second material is a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of PET, polyester, coated urethanes, and mixtures thereof.

28. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 23, wherein the second material is substantially opaque.

29. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 23, wherein the first material is substantially transparent.

30. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 23, wherein the core comprises:
a sub-core comprising at least one core fiber; and

an outer ring comprising a plurality of core fibers surrounding the sub-core.

31. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 30, wherein the sub-core comprises a single core fiber.

32. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 30, wherein the sub-core comprises a plurality of core fibers arranged in a twisted bundle.

33. (Original) A suture strand according to claim 30, wherein the outer ring comprises an annular woven braid of core fibers.

34. (New) A suture strand according to claim 23, wherein the second material has a lower coefficient of friction than said first material.

35. (New) A suture strand according to claim 1, wherein the second material has a lower coefficient of friction than said first material.